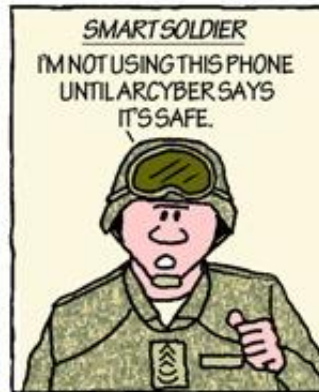


A Dangerous Game of Tag

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ON CYBER PATROL™



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Technology is once again giving us capabilities that on one hand are really cool and on the other hand are very dangerous. Geo-tagging, or having your phone or camera imbed the location of each picture in the digital file, is yet another example of this. With easy to obtain software, many digital photographs provide the exact location via longitude and latitude information at which the photo was taken. This is a widely known threat and protections have been put in place at popular picture posting web sites. Yet, even the protections put in place by popular social media and photography sites don't provide a complete blanket of protection. Twitter and email still don't offer this protection and in some cases the protection can be circumvented by the poster.

What's the threat? Taking a photograph with any device that has geo-tagging enabled can be the same as calling in fire coordinates to your own position or letting people know that your house is a prime target for break-in. Letting bad guys, from foreign combatants to domestic creeps, know your exact location at any given time is an obvious risk. Yet people, even people who keep up on technology, have been tracked for one simple reason. They forgot to turn the function off on their digital device.

When the On Cyber Patrol Editorial Team prepared to write a piece on Geo-tagging, it became obvious that the subject has already been thoroughly and extensively covered in the mainstream, internet, and electronic media. Policies, procedures and presentations on the topic have been developed and distributed throughout DoD and Army. There's not much else to say on the subject that hasn't been said before. So we won't beat that dead horse. Instead, we'll take our Information Assurance frustrations out on another dead equine: Personal Responsibility.

It is up to the individual users to turn off the geo-tagging functionality on their digital devices. It only takes a few thumb-strokes. It's less effort than Tweeting about what you had for breakfast. It's up to you or in other words: Tag! You're it.